

Frye Lights

A Neighborhood Newsletter From Councilmember Donna Frye



January 2003

Volume 1, Issue 1



*Proudly Serving
the District Six
Communities of:*

Bay Ho

Bay Park

Birdland

Clairemont

De Anza

Kearny Mesa

Linda Vista

Mission Valley

Mission Village

Morena

Serra Mesa

Stonecrest

A Message From the Desk of Councilmember Donna Frye

I hope that you had a wonderful holiday season and are looking forward to a happy and productive New Year. As we embark on this new year, I am still very committed to my priorities of public right to know and improving our quality of life. I use these two policies to guide me in every decision I make. As always, I am available to meet with you in your community on Friday afternoons. Please contact my office for time and location of meeting place.

Funding Identified for Tecolote Nature Center

In August of this past year, Councilmember Donna Frye announced that she has allocated \$90,000 of State Park Bond funds to the Tecolote Nature Center located in Tecolote Canyon Natural Park. These funds will go toward the much needed Nature Center expansion project currently in design.

Currently the facility does not have enough space to provide for the level of educational and enrichment experiences that is necessary to fulfill its educational mission. The expanded Tecolote Nature Center will have a classroom to provide for school field trips and lectures.

The expansion of the Tecolote Nature Center will provide an additional 600 square feet. This will include an enhanced patio and restroom facilities. A separate 900 square foot classroom building will be constructed adjacent to the current site.

The Tecolote Nature Center provides a variety of education and recreational experiences. The facility offers a number of exhibits on the animal and plant life in the canyon. Reference materials for research on the canyon are also available at the Nature Center. The Park Rangers offer tours and informational lectures about Tecolote Canyon Natural Park.



Existing Tecolote Nature Center Facility.
The expanded facility will include a separate 900 square foot classroom building.

Inside This Issue

<i>Nature Center Funding</i>	1
<i>Introduction the Councilmember</i>	2
<i>San Diego River Conservancy</i>	2
<i>Ruffin Canyon Dedication</i>	3
<i>Balboa Library</i>	3
<i>Inauguration Speech</i>	3
<i>Arbor Day</i>	5
<i>Capital Improvement Projects</i>	6



An Introduction to Your Councilmember - Donna Frye



Councilmember Donna Frye brings many things to her job as the elected official representing the Sixth District: an activist's passion, a keen understanding of the community and its needs, and a belief that government should be open and accessible to its constituents.

Elected by special election to complete an unexpired term in June 2001, she was re-elected to a full, four-year term in March 2002 with a resounding 65 percent of the vote.

Grassroots politics often end with a campaign, but Frye has brought them into office with her. Her style of governing is all about openness, and she spends as many hours meeting with constituents as she does at city council meetings. An environmental activist since the early 1980s, her commitment to clean water issues is unquestioned. She worked to strengthen San Diego City policies related to polluted runoff, including the initiation of the posting of warning signs in front of storm drains, the monitoring of discharges at storm drain outfalls, and the diversion of dry weather low-flow runoff into the sewer system.

Frye played a central role in obtaining millions of dollars for the clean up of Mission Bay. "As an activist you have to force people to listen to you," she says. "I never want to do that to the people of the 6th District. My door is always open."

As a Councilmember, Donna has worked tirelessly to increase public participation in local government, ensure that city resources are allocated to the communities of District Six, repair and replace aging infrastructure, ensure that development in District Six complies with Community Plans, expand Branch Library services, expedite undergrounding of utilities, protect and preserve our canyons, open space and public parkland, reduce sewage spills and prevent polluted runoff, and slow down traffic in our neighborhoods.

Councilmember Frye grew up in the community of Clairemont, where she attended area primary and secondary public schools. She received her

Associate of Arts from Cosumnes River College and her Bachelor of Business from National University. Donna currently lives in Clairemont with her husband, the legendary surfer, Skip Frye; her mother, Laura and dog, Diogenes.

Frye is Appointed to the San Diego River Conservancy

Councilmember Frye was appointed to the San Diego River Conservancy created by Assembly Member Kehoe's Assembly Bill 2156, recently signed by Governor Gray Davis in Mission Valley. This newly established conservancy will oversee the environmentally sensitive land, water and wetlands of the San Diego River.

The San Diego River Conservancy was formed to coordinate state funding for recreation, species restoration, scientific research and educational and cultural activities along the river. The conservancy will begin its efforts with 12 million dollars of proposition 13 and 40 funds allocated by Governor Davis. The conservancy is one of only eight in California and the first in San Diego County.

The governing board of the River Conservancy is made up of nine voting members and two nonvoting members. Frye was appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the full Council in December of 2002.



Councilmember Frye and other community leaders joined Governor Gray Davis in Mission Valley as he signed the bill that created the San Diego River Conservancy.



Ruffin Canyon Dedication

On December 9, 2002 Councilmember Frye received unanimous support for the ordinance she introduced to dedicate open space land throughout Serra Mesa. Approximately 116 acres of designated open space will become dedicated park land with the adoption of this ordinance. The status change of this land from "designated" to "dedicated" would protect these sensitive lands against any use other than for park, recreation and cemetery purposes without a two-thirds vote of the San Diego electorate.

Included in the lands to be dedicated is a large area known as Ruffin Canyon. Spanning over 84 acres, Ruffin Canyon stretches from Mission Village Drive to as far south as Friars Road. The canyon's unique shape and beauty has been a source of pride for the Serra Mesa community, serving as an area to hike and explore for nature enthusiasts and local residents for years.

Integral in getting these lands dedicated was the involvement and hard work from the Serra Mesa community. The enormous support from the community throughout this process has been incredible. So many people in Serra Mesa have shown the great commitment they have to protecting our sensitive lands and keeping their community a beautiful place to live.

The Friends of Ruffin Canyon group has been committed to the cleanup and dedication of the canyon and has worked closely with Councilmember Frye in the effort to dedicate open space throughout Serra Mesa.

Civic groups across the community, such as the Serra Mesa Community Council, Serra Mesa Planning Group and Serra Mesa Recreation Council have shown unanimous support for the dedication, culminating in a formal recommendation from the Recreation Council to the City last July for the open space to become dedicated.

New Plans for the Balboa Library

In November of 2002 Councilmember Frye allocated \$150,000 of District Six infrastructure funds for the expansion of the Balboa Library. The City has begun the bidding process for a design consultant to work on the 1,500 square foot library to replace the existing one at 4255 Mt. Abernathy.

The Friends of the Library for the three Clairemont libraries met a year ago, and determined that an expanded library on Balboa would be their top priority. The existing two libraries on Burgener and Clairemont Drive will be the next improvement to the City's library system District Six. The estimated cost will run close to \$4.16 million. The City is applying for Proposition 14 funding to help cover that cost.

Inauguration Speech



Councilmember Frye stood next to her husband, Skip, and mother Laura as she was sworn in on December 2, 2002.

Thank you Mayor Murphy, fellow Councilmembers and all my friends. Special thank you to Arthur and Inez Antczak, Lois Stecker, Ryan, Hank Warner, Deaconess Jane Hewitt and the De Anza family, but most of all thank you to my husband, Skip, my Mom, Laura, and my dog, Diogenes, for giving up

so much of our time together to allow me to serve.

I first learned in Jan 2001 that I was planning to run in the special election for District 6. I say learned, because even before I had decided to run, my name was listed as one of the candidates in an article in The San Diego Union-Tribune.....so I knew it must be true....

During my first campaign, the conventional wisdom believed I had no chance of winning. This worked to my advantage, since my opponents spent most of their time beating up on each other..... and ignoring me.

However, within minutes of making it into the runoff, my opponent attacked me because I had the support of the working class such as police, firefighters and the postal workers.



Inauguration Speech Continued

This strategy failed since most voters were the working class, and none that I could find had any fear of their mail carriers taking over city hall.

Our upset victory was best summed up by a quote from Gandhi: First they ignore you, Then they laugh at you, Then they fight you, And then you win.

In March 2002, I won my third election with over 60 percent of the vote, and I am grateful for the community support.

We have accomplished a great deal during the past 18 months.

But the task of governing, and meeting goals and desired outcomes is rarely a one person accomplishment. It is a combination of people joining together including my hard working staff, fellow Councilmembers, the Mayor, City Attorney, Manager and Clerk, our city employees, businesses, industry, environmental groups, the media and the tireless and dedicated community volunteers.

In addition to providing basic services such as filling potholes, repairing sidewalks, installing traffic signals, upgrading the sewer and water pipes, replacing unsafe playground equipment and planting trees ...we initiated our City's first lead paint poisoning prevention program and formed a citizen's oversight committee to reopen an investigation of the Mission Bay toxic landfill.

We opened a new library in Mission Valley, are near design completion for the Serra Mesa/Kearny Mesa library, and provided funding for the Balboa Library expansion in Clairemont.

In Linda Vista, we provided funding for much needed community services including a senior/disabled transportation program, the Mission Heights Tot Lot, and landscaping on Morena.



Members of the City Council after the Inauguration of new Councilmembers.

We helped establish the San Diego River Park Conservancy, fought successfully to require that new residential development comply with community park standards in Kearny Mesa, and

are dedicating Ruffin Canyon as protected open space in Serra Mesa.

We assisted with establishing a neighborhood watch program at DeAnza, and in Clairemont launched our traffic safety campaign, and provided funding for the senior home security program.

In Mission Bay Park we fought to protect the 30-foot height limit and prevent the over commercialization of our public parkland.

But our city's future requires more than my reading a list of our accomplishments. When I ran for office, I believed I could make a difference by providing the public with a voice... And I still believe this.

My philosophy for good government in San Diego is based on two simple principles; public right to know and quality of life.

It's a city where we tell the public the truth about the public's business, where non agenda public comment takes place at every city council meeting, and all necessary documents are provided to the public in a timely manner.

It's a place where closed session is held only when it serves the public interest.

It's a city where the public's basic needs are met, and the public interest, not professional sports interests, controls the city's budget priorities.

It is a place where people don't have to sleep on the street, seniors aren't forced out of their homes, mobile or otherwise, and the disabled community can access the sidewalks and buildings.

It is a place where renters aren't evicted unjustly.

It's a place where the word "labor" isn't used in a derogatory manner, and the quality of jobs being created is just as important as the quantity.

It is a place where our recreational waters are free from toxic pollution so people aren't exposed to diseases that don't even have names yet.

It's a place where the hillside and canyon protection map is followed, and illegal grading is punished with meaningful enforcement actions.

It's a place where older communities don't subsidize new development, individuals don't pay more than the larger users for sewer or water, and community planning groups aren't referred to as NIMBYs.



Inauguration Speech Continued



Councilmember Frye at the podium giving her Inauguration speech.

But most of all, it's a place where there are fewer 8 to 1 votes....and a hairdo, or lack thereof, is not a prerequisite for public service.

It looks like the yellow light is signaling, so before the Mayor gives me the "one sentence to wrap up

speech" allow me to conclude with these final thoughts.

I will always remember that I am a public servant and will work to protect the public interest.

I will make informed decisions based on public input and the best available information.

I will never forget what it's like to sit in the audience for ten hours in order to give three minutes of testimony.

And whether you agree or disagree with my votes, you will always know that I voted my conscience and did the best I knew to do.

As Mark Twain said, "The thing for us to do is our duty, and not worry about whether anybody sees us or not."

Thank you again for allowing me to serve you.

Appointments

In December Councilmember Frye was appointed to the following Authorities, Boards, Committees, Commissions and Conservancies:

- Land Use & Housing Committee
- Natural Resources & Culture Committee
- Public Safety & Neighborhood Services Committee
- Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Service Authority
- Local Agency Formation Commission
- SANDAG Walkable Communities Committee
- San Diego River Conservancy
- San Diego Trolley Advisory Board
- Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies

Arbor Day

Councilmember Donna Frye joined Mayor Murphy and the non-profit organization People for Trees to plant 21 trees in the area of Lindbergh Neighborhood Park in Clairemont.



Councilmember Frye with local students planting the first tree in Lindbergh Park on Arbor Day

Community groups, residents, church groups and local students came together in a joint effort to beautify this neighborhood. While some of the trees were planted inside Lindbergh park, the majority of the trees were planted along Ashford Street. Seven different types of trees were planted including Jacaranda, Chinese Talo, Golden Rain and Bronze Loquats.

San Diego Arbor Day was the kick off to the Community Forest Initiative, the effort to plant 5,000 trees per year for the next 20 years. This Initiative was introduced with the goals of beautifying the city, reducing storm water runoff and reducing heat.

Founded in Nebraska in 1872, Arbor Day has since spread throughout the nation and is now even held in many countries around the world. The National Arbor Day celebration, which is



Councilmember Frye with Mayor Murphy and students from the surrounding neighborhood.

usually held in April, has been changed in many cities to fit the best tree planting weather in that climate.



Frye and Firefighters Hand Out Holiday Food and Christmas Trees



Frye joined San Diego Firefighters in handing out 100 baskets of holiday food and 100 ornamental Christmas Trees to families in Linda Vista

Councilmember Frye joined Fire Chief Bowman and San Diego Firefighters in handing out holiday food baskets to needy families in the Linda Vista area the week before Christmas.

Each pre-registered family was given a turkey, a bag of potatoes and an ornamental Christmas tree. The event held at the Linda Vista Fire Station always brings the community together. Santa made an appearance to hand out holiday gift stockings to the children who attended with their family.

All of the food was donated by the San Diego Firefighters. The Christmas trees were donated by the Pinery Tree Farm.



Councilmember Frye with Santa, Linda Vista leader Reggie Smith and Councilmember Maienschein

Capital Improvement Projects In Your Community

- Balboa Branch Library: \$150,000 was allocated for a feasibility study for a redesigned Balboa Library for the Clairemont community.
- East Clairemont Athletic Area Senior Field Renovation: This project will provide for turfing, irrigation and security lights for the Senior Ballfield. It is currently in construction.
- Linda Vista Community Park Security

Lighting: The installation of security lighting at the Linda Vista Community Park. Construction on this project is scheduled to begin this month.

- Lindbergh Neighborhood Park Tot lot: This tot lot upgrade is currently under construction and is expected to be completed in the beginning of March.
- Mission Heights Tot lot: This project is the replacement of children's play equipment that was vandalized by arsonists. This project is scheduled to be completed this March.
- Mission Valley Fire Station: This project, currently in the design phase, provides for a new fire station to serve both east and west Mission Valley. An urban park will be constructed next to the fire station.
- North Clairemont tot-lot upgrade: New tot lot equipment is currently being installed at the North Clairemont Community Park. This tot lot will also be upgraded for disability accesses.
- Serra Mesa Community Park Game Room: This project includes repairs and upgrades to the game room facility. This project has been scheduled to go to construction in the spring.
- Serra Mesa/Kearny Mesa Branch Library: This will provide a 15,000 square foot library to the surrounding communities. This project is slated to be in construction at the end of 2003.
- South Clairemont Community Park Picnic Shelter: This project is to design and construct a picnic shelter to provide shade at the South Clairemont Community Park.
- Tecolote Nature Center Expansion: This project is an expansion to the current Nature Center.



Important Phone Numbers

Abandoned Vehicles	858 495-7856
Animal Regulation	236-4250
Beach & Bay Advisory	338-2073
Bicycle License	533-4300
Birth and Death Records	237-0502
Brush Abatement	236-5500
Building Permits	446-5000
Buses/MTS Access	233-3004
Canyon Watchers Program	858 292-6484
City Council Docket Info	533-4000
Community Service Center	858 581-4111
Code Violations	236-5500
Curb Maintenance	527-7500
Dead Animal Removal	492-5060
Dog Licenses	767-2675
Fire Stations	533-4300
Graffiti	525-8522
Hazardous Materials Hotline	235-2111
Housing Commission	231-9400
Humane Society	299-7012
Libraries	
Balboa	858 573-1390
Clairemont	858 581-9935
Linda Vista	858 573-1399
North Clairemont	858 581-9931
Serra Mesa	858 573-1396
Litter Control	858 492-5010
Noise Regulation	236-5500
Office of Small Business	685-1390
Park and Recreation	525-8219
Parking Citations	236-7145
Police: Non-Emergency	531-2000
Pot Hole Hotline	527-7500
Rec Centers	
Kearny Mesa	858 573-1387
Linda Vista	858 573-1392
North Clairemont	858 581-9926
Serra Mesa	858 573-1408
South Clairemont	858 581-9924
Tecolote	858 581-9930
Recycling Hotline	533-5353
Senior Citizens Services	236-6905
Serra Mesa Community Connection	858 565-2473
Sewer Repair/Spills	515-3525
Sidewalk Maintenance	527-7500
Stormwater Pollution Hotline	235-1000
Street Lights	527-7500
Street Sweeping	527-7500
Traffic Control	533-3126
Tree Maintenance	527-5465
Water Emergency	515-3525
Water Utilities	515-3500

District Six Community Meetings

Clairemont Town Council
Place: Clairemont High School Cafeteria,
4150 Ute Drive
When: 1st Thursday/ Month
Time: 7:00 p.m.

Clairemont Mesa Planning Committee
Place: Clairemont Friendship Senior Center,
4425 Bannock Ave.
When: 3rd Tuesday/ Month
Time: 6:30 p.m.

Kearny Mesa Planning Group
Place: National University,
9388 Light Wave # 114
When: 3rd Wednesday/ Month
Time: 12:00 p.m.

Linda Vista Civic Association
Place: Rotating Venue
When: 3rd Thursday/ Month
Time: 7:00 p.m.

Linda Vista Planning Group
Place: Linda Vista Library,
2160 Ulric Street
When: 4th Monday/ Month
Time: 7:00 p.m.

Mission Bay Park Committee
Place: Rotating Venue
When: 1st Tuesday/Month
Time: 6:00 p.m.

Mission Valley Community Council
Place: Mission Valley Library,
2123 Fenton Parkway
When: 3rd Thursday/ Odd Months
Time: 6:30 p.m.

Mission Valley Unified Planning Committee
Place: Mission Valley Library,
2123 Fenton Parkway
When: 1st Wednesday/ Month
Time: 12:00 p.m.

Serra Mesa Community Council
Place: ARC, 9575 Aero Drive
When: 4th Wednesday/ Month
Time: 7:00 p.m.

Serra Mesa Planning Group
Place: Taft Junior High School,
9222 Gramercy Dr.
When: 3rd Thursday/ Month
Time: 7:00 p.m.



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Frye Lights: A Neighborhood Newsletter From Councilmember Donna Frye



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